

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1619

To provide for a test census of Americans residing abroad, and to require that such individuals be included in the 2010 decennial census.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. McNULTY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To provide for a test census of Americans residing abroad, and to require that such individuals be included in the 2010 decennial census.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Census of Americans
5 Abroad Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) an estimated 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 Amer-
9 icans live and work overseas while continuing to vote
10 and pay taxes in the United States;

1 (2) Americans residing abroad help increase ex-
2 ports of American goods because they traditionally
3 buy American, sell American, and create business
4 opportunities for American companies and workers,
5 thereby strengthening the United States economy,
6 creating jobs in the United States, and extending
7 United States influence around the globe;

8 (3) with the growing threat of terrorism against
9 Americans who live around the world, the need to
10 account for the number of Americans residing in dif-
11 ferent countries is even more important;

12 (4) Americans residing abroad play a key role
13 in advancing this Nation's interests by serving as
14 economic, political, and cultural "ambassadors" of
15 the United States; and

16 (5) the major business, civic, and community
17 organizations representing Americans and companies
18 of the United States abroad support the counting of
19 all Americans residing abroad by the Bureau of the
20 Census, and are prepared to assist the Bureau of
21 the Census in this task.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that—

24 (1) the Bureau of the Census should undertake
25 a test census of Americans residing in selected coun-

1 tries abroad, and that the necessary funding should
2 be appropriated for this purpose;

3 (2) the Bureau of the Census should, after com-
4 pleting that test census, review the means by which
5 Americans residing abroad may be included in the
6 2010 decennial census;

7 (3) based on its review (described in paragraph
8 (2)), the Bureau of the Census should again test
9 methodologies that would provide for the counting of
10 Americans residing abroad; and

11 (4) the Bureau of the Census should take ap-
12 propriate measures to provide for the inclusion of
13 Americans residing abroad in the 2010 decennial
14 census and decennial censuses thereafter.

15 **SEC. 3. COUNTING OF AMERICANS RESIDING ABROAD.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
17 shall—

18 (1) using any authorities available to the Sec-
19 retary under section 182 or any other provision of
20 title 13, United States Code, take a test census of
21 Americans residing abroad by September 30, 2004;

22 (2) submit the final tabulations of the test cen-
23 sus to the President and Congress within 9 months
24 after the date specified in paragraph (1), broken
25 down into appropriate categories, including—

1 (A) Americans residing abroad affiliated
2 with the Federal Government, and their de-
3 pendants; and

4 (B) Americans residing abroad not affili-
5 ated with the Federal Government, and their
6 dependents;

7 (3) not later than June 30, 2005, submit to the
8 President and Congress a report containing any rec-
9 ommendations the Secretary may have with respect
10 to the inclusion of Americans residing abroad in fu-
11 ture decennial censuses, including—

12 (A) counting methodologies;

13 (B) the purposes for which any informa-
14 tion could or should be used; and

15 (C) whether Americans residing abroad
16 can be included in the 2010 decennial census
17 for purposes of the apportionment of Rep-
18 resentatives in Congress among the several
19 States and, if so, how that should be done;

20 (4) after submitting the report required by
21 paragraph (3), but before the end of 2006, again
22 test methodologies for counting Americans residing
23 abroad; and

24 (5) take appropriate measures—

1 (A) to provide for the inclusion of Ameri-
2 cans residing abroad in the 2010 decennial cen-
3 sus and decennial censuses thereafter; and

4 (B) to make use of the information ob-
5 tained from such censuses for such purposes as,
6 and to the maximum extent that, the Secretary
7 considers feasible and appropriate.

8 (b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION; PEN-
9 ALTIES.—The provisions of section 9 and chapter 7 of title
10 13, United States Code, shall apply with respect to the
11 test census.

12 (c) LIMITED USE OF DATA.—The data obtained from
13 the test census may not be used for any purpose not spe-
14 cifically provided for under this section.

15 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
17 necessary to carry out this Act.

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